

## **CONTINUOUS PROCESS FOR RECOVERING ACETONE FROM A WASTE STREAM RESULTING FROM ACETONE PURIFICATION**

### **Abstract of the Disclosure**

The present invention provides a continuous process for recovering acetone from a waste stream from an acetone purification stage, whereas said waste stream comprises mesityl oxide and optionally acetone by separating the waste stream in a separating device at least in one stream comprising mesityl oxide and optionally a further stream comprising acetone, by then concentrating mesityl oxide in the mesityl oxide containing stream and finally by recycling the concentrated mesityl oxide stream to the separating device and bringing it into contact with a basic or acidic aqueous medium or with an acidic catalyst in the presence of water whereby mesityl oxide is at least partially hydrolyzed to acetone.

O:\DOCS\MXG\MXG-2799.DOC  
061003